

H O B B Y

# BANDWAGON



June, 1949

15c

**HELEN HUNTLEY**  
Aboard Big Burma  
Mills Brothers Circus

—The Circusiana Monthly—

**HOBBY**

## **Bandwagon**

**122 South Main Street  
Camden, Ohio**

**JUNE, 1949**

**Vol. 4 No. 5**

**HARRY M. SIMPSON  
Editor — Publisher**

**15c a single copy.  
\$1.00 a year in U. S. A.**

**Display advertising rates sent upon application.**

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## **Circus Photos**

**FROM ORIGINAL NEGATIVES**

**Many from the Wm. Koford Collection**

**Partial List Now Ready**

## **SHANK PHOTOS**

**Clarence R. Shank  
Member of CHS and CFA  
Camden, Ohio**

**HOBBY-BANDWAGON, published monthly by Harry M. Simpson, Camden, Ohio. Entered as second-class matter at the post office in Camden, Ohio, under the act of March 3, 1879. Printed in U. S. A.**

## **The Publisher Says**



From all corners of United States and Canada I have received a flood of mail giving high praise to an elephant act on Robbins Bros. Circus that is rated the "tops" for 1949 . . . this act is trained and worked by W. H. Woodcock of Hot Springs, Ark.

W. H. Woodcock is a member of the Circus Historical Society and has one of the finest collections of circuscians in the world. He is an authority on elephants and has been a trainer with leading circuses for many years. I know that all readers will be pleased to learn that this act, worked by Woodcock, is receiving such high praise from so many.

\* \* \*

This month, the Circus Historical Society will hold their annual convention in Baraboo, Wisconsin, at the Warren Hotel. An invitation is extended to members of other organizations and former troupers of the circus to attend this convention. The convention slogan, "I'll Be Seein' You In Baraboo" used during the past year was the suggestion of Clyde Wixom of Detroit, Mich.

\* \* \*

My sincere thanks for all of the letters complimenting my editorial last month. I, too, feel that it is about time that the people do something toward making it possible for circuses to show cities without all of the "red tape." Yes, show the editorial to your councilman . . . although many are not like the ones mentioned in the editorial, maybe the parties you mention in your letters are.

Sincerely,

**HARRY M. SIMPSON,  
Editor.**

A new C. H. S. roster is in the making and to insure your name being listed in the roster, check your address on the Bandwagon and check your membership cards in regards to your dues. Mr. King's address is 1117 Main Street, Richmond, Indiana.

# The Bandwagon

News and Activities of the  
**CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Founded In 1939  
By Don Smith

Harry M. Simpson ----- Editor

## OFFICERS

Bette Leonard ----- President  
Maurice Allaire ----- Vice-Pres.  
Walter Pietschmann ----- Pres.  
Robert C. King ----- Secretary  
William Green ----- Election Comm.

## PAST PRESIDENTS

Don Smith  
Walter Tyson  
Arthur Stensvard  
John VanMatre

## CARD OF THANKS

I wish to thank the members of the Circus Historical Society for the fine flowers and cards received following my recent accident . . . they were greatly appreciated.

M. W. KRIEGER

## LOUISE K. MAIN

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Mrs. Louise K. Main, wife of CHS member Walter L. Main, at Geneva, Ohio, on July 3. Funeral services were conducted July 6, at Geneva, with burial at Pittsburgh, Pa.

## An Eulogy

MAIN, LOUISE K. Died July 3, 1949.

Gone and not forgotten,  
Beautiful memories she left behind,  
Always will remain in my heart.  
A wonderful woman—ever true and kind.

Her loving husband,  
Walter L. Main.

## MARVIN W. KRIEGER INJURED

Marvin W. Krieger, CHS member of Albuquerque, N. M., was painfully injured June 15th, when he tangled with a propellor of an airplane. Krieger received five fractures of the left leg, fractured arm and numerous lacerations. Although able to return to his home, Mr. Krieger will spend many weeks in "concrete." His address is Box 94, U. of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N. M.

## CIRCUS TENTS in O and HO Gauges

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# C. H. S. CONVENTION AUG. 5-6-7

## Former Home of Ringling Bros. to Be Site of 3-Day Meet

Members of the Circus Historical Society will journey to Baraboo, Wisc., August 5-6-7, to hold their 1949 Convention in the Warren Hotel of that city.

It was on Monday, March 13, 1883, that the five Ringling Bros. opened in Baraboo, Wisc., the Ringling Bros. Classic and Concert Company and on May 19, 1884, opened in this same city as Yankee Robinson and Ringling Bros. Museum and Fair. It was in 1890 that they took on tour from Baraboo the Ringling Bros. World's Greatest Railroad Show that was destined to become the "Big One" of today. Ringling Bros. wintered in Baraboo until the consolidation in 1919. So it is quite fitting that over four hundred historians of the circus should select Baraboo as their 1949 convention site.

Baraboo is located in the center of Wisconsin's famed dairy and summer resort country and is a beautiful city of 8,500 inhabitants. Baraboo and Devil's Lake now boasts one of Wisconsin's largest, most beautiful and best equipped summer resorts. Modern shopping centers and churches of most denominations are located here.

With Baraboo's historical circus background and beauty, this convention is certain to be one of the finest ever held by the Circus Historical Society. The Baraboo Chamber of Commerce have been very cooperative in making pre-convention arrangements along with Bill Kasiska, chairman of the convention.

Due to many requests, this year's program will be held to a minimum in order that members may have more time to visit and enjoy each others collections. A business session will be held on Friday evening followed by a banquet on Saturday evening.

John M. Kelly will be guest speaker at the convention banquet on Saturday evening. Mr. Kelly is a noted speaker and author and was personal attorney for the five Ringling Bros. for over 30 years. Mr. Kelly recently finished the circus book "Rain or Shine" which should be on sale very soon.

Committee for the convention are William Kasiska, Chairman, Charles P. Fox, Charles Kitto, John Heidl.

## PROGRAM

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

- 10:00 a. m.—Registration—Warren Hotel.  
Arranging Displays.
- 1:30 p. m.—Tour of Ringling and Gollmar Circus sites.  
Tour of Sauk County Historical Museum.
- 8:00 p. m.—Band Concert (Circus Music).

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

- 2:00 p. m.—Business Meeting.
- 6:30 p. m.—Sunset Memorial Services.
- 8:00 p. m.—Banquet.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

- Morning: Church Attendance.
- Afternoon: Tour of Mirror Lake and Upper and Lower Dells.

Baraboo and nearby cities offer a wealth of circus history . . . it was in this territory that Ringling Bros., Gollmar Bros., Dode Fiske, Hiriam Orton, and other circuses once made their home. Members of the Circus Historical Society are bound to add much data to their collections and records. Among visitors of the convention will be Henry Moeller, Jr., famed builder of Ringling Bros. and other shows parade wagons.

## BAND CONCERT OF OLD TIME CIRCUS MUSICAL SELECTIONS

Presented by  
THE AMERICAN LEGION BAND OF BARABOO, WISC.  
Under the Direction of  
FRED E. MOREY AND NORMAN SOLUM



### P R O G R A M

1. MARCH—"Semper Fideles" ----- Sousa  
This number was used for Ringling Bros. Grand Entree for many years.
2. CHARACTERISTIC MARCH—"Noisy Bill" ----- J. H. Losey  
A regular old Circus Trombone Smear.
3. MARCH—"Gollmar Brothers Triumphal" ----- Ed Chenette  
Mr. Chenette was Bandmaster with Gollmar Bros. Shows, and  
this number is dedicated to them.
4. MARCH—"Cleoine" ----- H. A. Vandercok  
Mr. Vandercok was Bandmaster with the La Pearl Circus in the  
nineties. He wrote this march and dedicated it to  
Carl Clair, leader of the Barnum band.
5. MARCH—"Garland Entree" ----- K. L. King  
Dedicated to Mr. W. P. English, bandmaster of Sells Floto Shows,  
and used for Grand Entree by them.
6. TROMBONE NOVELTY—"Hydrophobia" ----- G. E. Holmes  
Written by one of Baraboo's troupers.
7. MARCH—"Barnum and Bailey's Favorite" ----- K. L. King  
Dedicated to Mr. Ned Brill, Bandmaster of Barnum and Bailey Shows.
8. MARCH—"Gentry's Triumphal March" ----- Fred Jewell  
Dedicated to Gentry's Famous Dog and Poney Shows.
9. MARCH—"Billboard" ----- R. B. Hall
10. MARCH—"Robinson's Grand Entree" ----- K. L. King  
Dedicated to Robinson's Famous Shows.
11. MARCH—"Wanderlust" ----- K. L. King  
Dedicated to all troupers.
12. MARCH—"Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey, Favorite March" ----- K. L. King
13. MARCH—"Circus Historical Society" ----- C. L. Brown  
This number was written by C. L. Brown, Bandmaster of Sells Floto  
and Cole Bros. Circus (1949), and dedicated to the  
Circus Historical Society.
14. MARCH—"On Wisconsin" ----- Purdy  
Welcoming all members and friends of the C. H. S. to our city and state.
15. "Star Spangled Banner" ----- Francis Scott Key

# BAND LEADERS OF THE OLD DAYS WITH GENTRY BROTHERS SHOWS

Written for The Bandwagon by Charlie Duble, old Circus Trouper

One sunny day early in October, 1897, Prof. Gentry's famous Dog and Pony Show exhibited at Jeffersonville, Indiana, the home town of the writer. That was the full title of the show at that time. This was the first appearance also in this city but it came many times in the following years. One of the earliest band leaders of the show was Eugene Waak who was noted for his great endurance and high notes on the cornet. I recall to this day one number the Gentry band played for the overture that night. It was "Melodies from the Opera—Bohemian Girl." Eugene Waak was a well known leader of that period and served a few years with the Gentry show. After leaving the road he played in Chicago theaters. Fred Jewell was with the Gentry Show in 1900 and later. His name is outstanding as a composer of band music and his compositions numbering perhaps 200 have been played around the world, wherever band music is known. Every circus, minstrel, and troupers band of the past 45 years have played Fred Jewell's fine compositions. His famous "Gentry's Triumphal March" which he wrote when he first became leader there was a big hit and I will venture to say every good leader of show bands had it among his music. Fred Jewell hailed from Worthington, Indiana. He was leader of the band with the Otto Floto Shows when it became the Sells-Floto Show in 1906. He was band master of the Barnum & Bailey Greatest Show On Earth seasons 1909 and 1910, and with the Hagenbeck-Wallace Show season 1917. In later years he directed Shrine bands and finally had his own music publishing business in Worthington. His "Gentry's Triumphal March" has been recorded and for years has been much in demand where "show music" is required.

Harry Toomer was a band leader of the Gentry show 40 years ago, likewise E. C. Jones who was there some years

prior to 1910. I saw the show at times when he was leader and he always had an excellent band of 13 including himself. The air calliope had not come into use at that time. After leaving the circus E. C. Jones was General Manager of the Terry's Uncle Tom's Cabin Company under canvas, with headquarters at Aurora, Illinois., this being one of the last Tom troupes to tour. This was formerly the Dickey & Terry Company of Little Sioux, Iowa., well known in the West. Prior to 1910 the Gentry's had on the road certain years two separate shows, and some years three, known as the No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3, show. Beech Parrott, a well known leader of Washington Court House, Ohio, served as band leader in 1905 and later, always having a very good band, likewise Harry Crigler of Oxford, Indiana, was leader in 1906 and later. The writer was with the Gentry Bros. band season in 1910. Crigler had an 18 piece band that year which was the largest ever carried by the show. This was also the first time a side show was along with the show. Crigler's favorite grand entry march was "on Dress Parade" by W. Paris Chambers. After leaving the road his services were in demand as a teacher and director of school bands. In 1907 I saw the Gentry Show at Jeffersonville, Indiana, this being the 2-car show. Thurlow Wulff had a band of but 9 men and it was great. They played the old "Olivene" march and "Troupers Tribunal" march in front of the marquee that night before doors opened.

C. L. Brown was also a well known leader with one of the Gentry shows years ago and later was leader of the Sells-Floto Circus 1917-1920, when H. B. Gentry was General Manager of that show. He afterward had his own act "Brown's Saxophone Six" and toured the vaudeville circuits during the 1920's and met with success. C. L. Brown has been

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PHOTOS—BARNUM & BAILEY, In Europe, list on request. Jake Posey, 549 North Maine St., Baldwin Park, Calif.

located in South Bend, Indiana, in late years as instructor and leader of bands, and is now Bandmaster of Cole Bros. Circus. He hails from What Cheer, Iowa, a town that has turned out some well known names in the show world. Although John DelVecho was never a leader of the Gentry show his name deserves special mention here. For years he played the steam calliope with the show being one of the best in that line. His other duties were selling reserve seat and concert tickets. He was a clever musician and arranger. Many of the special musical numbers were arranged by him he having been with a few of the prominent minstrel shows in his younger days. DelVecho hailed from Buffalo, N.

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#### 1949 CANADIAN PHOTOS

DAILY BROS. CIRCUS—Set No. 1—14 photos size 116—showing loaded flats, unloading, early morning scenes, cages, bulls, calliope, horses, Big top, side show, midway, etc., etc., \$1.25

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#### HOBBY-BANDWAGON

Camden, Ohio

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Y., and his last troupings was with Downie Bros. Circus playing the air calliope. He arranged the "spec" music for that show. I have no record of other leaders who were connected with the Gentry shows up to 1923 when the show was sold to James Patterson of Paoli, Kansas, who had the Gentry-Patterson Show on the road.

H. B. Gentry took out a motorized show in 1931 and operated same to the close of 1934 season. The leaders who served this motorized show were John Fingerhut and Henry DeArmitt. It was not unusual during the glorious and glamorous days of the Gentry Brothers Shows while walking off the lot at night as the crowds came from the big top to hear some circus goer remark, "Say! Didn't that show have a good band?"

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#### ROBERT SAMS

2745 Bush Boulevard, Ensley  
Birmingham 8, Alabama

## Circus Articles

### April—1949

THE HUDSONIAN, magazine of the J. L. Hudson Co., Detroit, Mich., "Cameras and Circuses" by Plutarch, 2 illus. . . . NEW YORK TIMES, 4-7, "Somers, Site of First U. S. Circus, To Refurbish Its Elephant Statue," no author, 2 illus. . . . N. Y. HERALD-TRIBUNE, 4/3, "A Circus Queen Makes a Comeback," 2 illus. showing Antoinette Concello . . . PARADE, 4-24, "The Flying Siegrists," 4 illus. . . . YOUNGSTOWN (Ohio) VINDICATOR, 4-17, "The Circus," 9 illus. of RB&BB.

### May—1949

THIS WEEK, 5-1, "The Man Behind The Spotlight," by Bob Ensworth, story of James O'Hara with 2 illus. . . . HARTFORD (Conn.) COURANT Magazine, 5-1, "Circus Cut Up," story on Bill Brinley and RB&BB with 9 illus. . . . MILWAUKEE JOURNAL, 5-12, "Annie Oakley Won Royal Favor, Made Wild West Show a Big Hit," 6 illus. . . . MINICAM PHOTOGRAPHY, color cover of Lou Jacobs . . . CAMERA, color cover of Lou Jacobs and Harry Dann, also photo of Unis . . . HOBBIES, "Here Comes The Parade," by A. Morton Smith, 1 illus. . . . BLUE BOOK, 18 reproductions of old circus prints.

### June—1949

BLUE BOOK, "Buffalo Bill Holds Five Kings," by Robert B. Johnson, illus. by Maurice Bower . . . THIS WEEK of N. Y. HERALD TRIBUNE, 6/5, "The Barnum Dispute," by Richard F. Crandall, 8 illus. . . . TRUE, "The Big Top's Saints and Sinners," by Mary Ellen and Mark Murphy, 3 illus. . . . THE COLUMBIAN CREW, published by Columbian Rope Co., May-June, "Columbian Serves the 'Big Tops,'" 9 illus. of Cole Bros. Circus including color cover of Otto Greibling . . . MILWAUKEE JOURNAL, 6/22, "Old Skull Cracking Days of Circus Wars Recalled," by Paul Pett . . . same story in PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, 6-26, under

title "Circus War Clouds Recall Famous Feuds," 1 illus. . . . MILWAUKEE JOURNAL, 6-23, "Big Top Means Home to Circus Chaplin," fine story with one illus. of "Doc" Waddell . . . PAWTUCKET (R.I.) TIMES, 6-22, "About Circus People" by Frank Tripp . . . CAMERA, "40 Yrs. A Newscamerman," by W. T. (Doc) Skinner, 13 photos including 6 fine continuous flying act photos . . . THE ELKS Magazine, "The Circus Comes To Town," another fine story by Earl Chapin May, author of "The Circus from Rome to Ringlings," illustrated by William Von Riegen . . . HOBBIESTS, "Barnum and Bridgeport," by A. Morton Smith, 1 illus. . . . THE WHITE TOPS, May-June, "The Circus Firm of Spalding & Rogers," another fine article by Col. C. G. Sturtevant, 4 illus. . . . SAT. EVE. POST, 6-11, Cover by Stevan Dohanos.

## Why Not Ask Your Friends

### To Join C. H. S.

## CIRCUS PHOTOS

Postcard size, clear and sharp, in sets ONLY. Returnable if not satisfied. Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey, ranging from 1930 to 1949.

Sparks Circus—8 sets 1927, 28 and 30; Downie Bros., Hagenbeck-Wallace, Robin Bros., Cole Bros., Daily Bros., Bailey Bros., Kelly-Miller, Col. Tim McCoy Wild West, Al G. Barnes, "Barnes-Sells-Floto & RB&BB" and Beatty-Russell.

I do not exchange sets or sell individual pictures.

**EDDIE JACKSON**

Box 477, Macon, Ga.

#### NEW MEMBERS

- 400—Dyer M. Reynolds, 197 East Ave., Pawtucket, R. I.
- 401—Hank Fraser, 501 N. Trenton, Ruston, La. (J).
- 402—Raymond Moreau, 804 Cleveland Ave., Niagara Falls, N. Y.
- 403—Lyman L. Sheldon, 1660 N. Western Ave., Hollywood 27, Calif.
- 404—Raymond R. Heim, 3232 N. 27th St., Milwaukee, Wisc.
- 405—Cornell Moberg, Lestock Drug Store, Lestock, Sask., Canada.
- 406—Ann King, 1514 North A St., Richmond, Ind. (J).
- 407—Donald E. DeWees, 220 N. Mead St., Zanesville, Ohio.
- 408—Glen Tracy, R.R. 1, New Richmond, Ohio.
- 409—Michael Simpson, 279 N. Main St., Camden, Ohio (J).
- 410—Fred Bailey Thompson, Clarkston, Ga.
- 411—Harry B. Chipman, 1219 N. First St., Yakima, Wash.
- 412—Ralph E. Conaway, Route 2, Warsaw, N. Y.
- 413—Harry J. Cramer, 29 Salem Ave., Carbonville, Pa.
- 414—William Henry, 113 Manney St., East Greenwich, R. I.
- 415—John Horn, 76 Intervale, Rockville Centre, Long Island, N. Y.
- 416—Francis Johnson, P. O. Box 878, Chapel Hill, N. C.
- 417—Wilson L. Little, 756 S. Hall St., Allentown, Pa.
- 418—James L. Malone, 623 Hickory St., Scranton, Pa.
- 419—Charles F. Petty, 146 Broad St., Washington, N. J.
- 420—Charles Puck, 4840 Rosewood Ave., Los Angeles 4, Calif.
- 421—Richard S. Robbins, Room 221, 1133 Broadway, New York 10, N. Y.
- 422—Andrew Wachter, P. O. Box 423, Greensboro, N. C.
- 423—Delevan Wentworth, Route 3, Miller Drv., Boise, Idaho.

#### RE-INSTATED

- 286—Stephen Hlavenka, 253 W. 2nd St., Pittsburg, Calif.

## To the Members

Does the Bandwagon look different to you this time? It is different. In order to help Harry Simpson get this issue to you, before the Convention, your Secretary has undertaken to put out an issue of the Bandwagon, and if it isn't up to par—and I'm sure it isn't—don't put the blame on Harry. My shoulders are broad—a lot broader than Harry's—and I'll take all the blame. Sure—Harry sent me some copy—but as a publisher I'm not there. I've done what looked right to me—to you it may look pretty bad. BUT—you were entitled to a Bandwagon. Harry is snowed under with work—so here it is. Tear it up—look at it with a magnifying glass for errors—for there are some—cuss a little under you breath—but don't forget that C. H. S. is trying to do a good job for its members—and this is just one more try for you.

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#### WANTED

## Great Wallace Circus Routes

— Still Need —

**1884, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9**

Please advise which ones you have and what you are asking for same. Just a typewritten list will suffice. I do not care for the route book.

#### DR. H. POWERS

110½ E. Washington Ave.

**South Bend 1, Ind.**

# CIRCUS ARRIVES IN CITY

## Great Show--Great Parade

### FOREPAUGH-SELLS CIRCUS SHOWS HERE THIS AFTERNOON

#### Features a Street Parade and a Varied Performance

The great Forepaugh-Sells circus arrived in this city at an early hour this morning and exhibits here this afternoon and in evening.

The grounds where the circus is quartered are on the Cockshutt near the Parkdale Hotel.

These have been converted into a small city in which all is activity and bustle, but where despite hundreds of people and animals, there is still system and order.

The principal streets of the city were paraded this morning, the splendid pageant being witnessed by large numbers.

For hours before the parade was due this morning crowds of ladies and children lined the streets, and every point of vantage was eagerly snapped up. When the first notes of the band accompanying the parade could be heard workmen in stores and clerks in business houses dropped their work and hastened to the windows.

The parade left the show grounds at 10 o'clock this morning, and when it was fully stretched out it measured over a mile. It was certainly one of the best that has been seen in this city in years, and well repaid those who turned out to see it. All the way the crowds on the streets were twenty and thirty deep on both sidewalks, whilst the windows were packed with children eager to see everything and interested to the very end.

The features that delighted every one were the splendid collection of horses of all shades and sizes and the fine equestrians the circus has with it. A troupe of Mexican cowboys in their picturesque native costumes made a fine showing. The parade was punctuated with music from the seven bands that are carried.

The animals are always a drawing card and the Forepaugh-Sells Bros. circus is not lacking in these. As the lions, tigers, leopards, polar bears and hippopotamus in open dens passed the admiration of the crowd, and camels, each animal bearing a gorgeously dressed driver and riders were perhaps the feature of the animal part of the show.

Particular mention must be made of the splendid exhibition of firemen and

apparatus which was another popular item in the parade. The brigade was one of which any city might be proud to own.

#### Features Of The Performance

When such features as "looping the gap" and "the death leap" were introduced by circuses in past years, it was said that the limit of human ingenuity and daring had been reached, but the Adam Forepaugh & Sells Brothers Show put on a feature which is so much in advance of any of these former blood-curdlers that it is designed "Beyond the Limit." It is the act of Mlle. La Raque, and it certainly is a thrilling one. Mlle. La Raque rides in an auto weighing 1,200 pounds, her own weight being 150.

The plane on which the car descends has an elevation of about 45 feet and an angle of 65 degrees. At the bottom of the descent the car takes a sudden jag, ascends into space at an angle of about 60 degrees, rises 30 to 40 feet, and then the front of the car dips and it describes a complete revolution in mid-air, descends and lights upon a platform with its daring rider smiling.

The effect upon the vast audience this afternoon as rider and car took their places on the upper platform was intense. A silence and stillness that could be felt came over the crowd. When the descent, the sudden ascent, the somersault and the final landing are accomplished the crowd breaks into the most demonstrative applause.

(Taken from the Brantford, Ont., Canada, newspaper of June 15, 1907, by E. W. Cripps).

## PAGEL'S CIRCUS

### Pagel's First:

With the death of William Pagel still a matter of recent history, I found it particularly interesting to learn that in the programme of what was the first Pagel Circus proper were The Flying Eugenes, "supreme monarchs of the air;" Mr. Ernest Shand, premier jockey rider; Miss Montgomery, principal lady equestrienne; Carl Wirth, the champion six-horse rider; the Olympians, lady and gentlemen equestrians; the Pedros, experts on the Roman Rings; Mons. Carlo with his superb troupe of performing horses; Gilliaume and August, musical clowns, Azoda, the flexible marvel; Miss Alice, the equestrienne juggler; Coco and Chico, the educated chimpanzees, with their canine companion Toodles, who perform on the revolving ladder; Titto, tum-

bling and talking clown; Signor Enrico on the flying trapeze; Alfonso the famous cyclist balancer; with Pagel presenting the elephants and other animal acts.

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#### A Book To Look For:

The absorbing history of William Pagel's early struggles and ultimate rise to fame is coming out in South Africa in book form under title of "The Pagel Story." Carel Birkby is the narrator and extracts from the story have been appearing in serial form in "The Cape Argus." Thanks to Mr. Arthur Fenwick, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, I have been able to read some of these, and as a result I have a very strong desire to acquire a copy of the complete book.

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#### In Uncommon Mould:

For Pagel was no ordinary man. Some may say that no circus proprietor is, but that one can let pass. His patently genuine feats of strength have carved for him an exclusive niche in circusdom's Hall of Fame; his deep affection for his animals entitle him to an inscription in letters of true gold.

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#### A Thorough Biographer:

Taking the extracts as a criterion, Carel Birkby has done his work as Pagel's biographer with thoroughness. In a sense one may envy him for having such a subject. 'Tis indeed absorbing, this Pagel Story. Those lucky enough to get hold of the book will read how this Pomeranian-born "Hercules" carried a horse up a ladder; of his meeting with the Mary Dinsdale whom he was to marry and who became one of the most colourful personalities ever known to circus anywhere; of early adventures in Australia and New Zealand; of Pagel's famous wrestling lion "Hopetoun" and how the police at one place, convinced that his life was in danger, turned up armed with revolvers, all ready to shoot if they thought occasion merited it; of early travels through Boer War country with its memories of Buller, Lord Roberts and the sieges which enthralled the world; of Wally Ricardo, the first performer ever to draw a salary from Pagel's Circus (he was a South African who had learned trapeze work from a Spaniard); of the many mauulings, severe and otherwise, suffered by Pagel. They will read too how Pagel secured his first elephants and the twists of fate which robbed him of them. How elephant "Tempest" walked the "wire." All that and a great deal more.

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#### ASTLEY'S

One hundred and four years ago—on December 12, 1844—Astley's Royal Amphitheatre of Arts under the proprietorship and management of William Batty, staged a performance for the benefit of the Widows and Orphans Fund of the North London District of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, M. U. Principal feature was a "new, National, Local, Patriotic, Panoramic, Pedestrian, Peculiar, and Equestrian Drama (in 3 Acts) written by that celebrated Author, W. T. Moncrieffe, Esq., introducing the Double Company, Mr. Batty's beautiful Stud of Horses, Ponies, Pack of Hounds, Fox and Trained Steeds, embodying the progress of our National Sports—the Turf—the Chase—Agricultural and Military Fêtes—blending under every variety of circumstances, in good and bad fortune, Life's Course of Man and Horse, entitled the Royal Fox Hunt, or, Life as it Gallops."

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#### The British Grenadiers:

The set-up as outlined on the daybill looks very elaborate, the sequence beginning with "The Race Horse" at Epsom Race Course, and proceeding with "The Hunter" with its "Splendid Fox Chase" on stage and in the Circle; "The Post Horse" on the Great North Road in winter; "The Cab Horse" in London, it all coming to an end with the "Death of the Race Horse" and the "unparalleled Effect produced by the Twelve Grenadiers carrying the Dead Racer on their Shoulders." So to a piece of pageantry, "England's Queen."

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#### Tickets From Mine Host:

At the bottom of the bill is a list of "Hosts" from whom tickets could be obtained. Some of their hosteries remain today: others have passed into oblivion. Some have intriguing names, such as "Gentleman and Porter" (New-Street Square); "White Horse and Cross Keys" (Goswell Street); "Angel and Crown" (Regent Street); "Angel and Trumpet" King Street, Holborn—the landlord's name should have been Gabriel instead of the more prosaic Groom); "London Apprentices" (Margaret Street). The majority were in or near London, but one assumes the sponsors hoped to attract travellers, for I also find listed one Luard at the Hop, Rue de Vie, St. Pierre, Calais.

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*Greetings! . . .*

# CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Fourth Annual Convention



# C. Spencer Chambers

P. O. Box 722

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